

# REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

### Week ending the 2nd March 1901.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

**THE Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen** [Calcutta] of the 18th February says that the European Ambassadors in China are decidedly of opinion that an exemplary punishment should be inflicted upon the princes and nobles of China, so that no one may venture in future to molest the Europeans in that country and the power of the Chinese Government may be curtailed. In fact, if the Chinese Government gives its consent either to the conditions on which the Powers intend to make peace with China or to their demand that capital punishment shall be inflicted upon some of the princes and nobles of that country, the power of the Chinese Emperor will be much diminished, and he will become only the nominal sovereign of the Empire, while all real power will be exercised by the Europeans.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS  
HABLUL MATEEN,  
Feb. 18th, 1901.

2. The same paper says that the circumstances attending the conquest of the Transvaal afford a clear evidence of the fact that the European nations are not true to their words. If Persia does not take a lesson from the affairs in the Transvaal and puts faith in the promises of its neighbours, it is sure to meet the fate of the Transvaal. Truth to say, Persia is being deceived by its neighbours. It is to be asked why some of Persia's neighbours are persistently forbidding it to purchase arms and ammunition from European merchants. This is perhaps from a fear lest Persia should, in time of war, assume the attitude of South Africa. This step has been taken by the neighbours of Persia simply for their personal advantage and not for fear of internal disorders in Persia in some remote future. The Persians should be given permission to keep arms, so that in a time of emergency they may be able to defend their own country. The European nations intend to keep all other nations disarmed, so that the latter may not be in a position to oppose them.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS  
HABLUL MATEEN.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

3. A correspondent of the *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 12th February writes about the curious conduct of the Sub-Inspector of the Ainpur police-station in connection with a theft in the village of Ramnagar. The theft was committed in a zamindar's house immediately to the east of the local post office and attached to it. Upon due lodgment of information in the *thana*, the Sub-Inspector came and finished his enquiry within an hour. Neither the Postmaster nor the schoolmaster, who were near enough, were asked anything. Such enquiries embolden thieves. The village is inhabited by a large number of respectable and well-to-do men, and the police should deliver them from their perpetual fear of being robbed.

FARIDPUR  
HITASHINI,  
Feb. 12th, 1901.

The village has five *chaukidars*, but they are seldom found to do their duty. They are only seen when collecting the *chaukidari* tax. They do never go on their nightly rounds, and are not to be found even when required to lodge informations.

4. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th February writes as follows:—  
The Hon'ble Mr. Cotton has communicated to us his desire to rescue the woman, named Nirada, of Bankura, who has been fraudulently recruited as a cooly. The woman has with her a daughter four years of age. We shall try to ascertain to what tea-garden she has been sent, and soon inform Mr. Cotton where she is. The woman has her husband at home, but we learn from a trustworthy source that the recruiters have given her another husband. A young man, named Kalpa, has not been found from the day on which Nirada disappeared.

BANKURA  
DARPAN,  
Feb. 16th, 1901.



HITAVADI,  
Feb. 22nd, 1901.

5. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February, writing from Narayantala in the 24-Parganas district, reports the following cases of, and attempts at, highway robbery which occurred in the course

of a week :—

(1) One Gagan Chandra Karmakar, of Babra, was waylaid, struck down and robbed near Bhutpukur cremation ground while on his way home from the Sahara hât.

(2) A female servant of the Ghosh Babus, of Telari, was robbed of the cloth and sweetmeats she was carrying to some relative of her master's.

(3) Some people returning with rice from the Katakali hât were waylaid by robbers.

(4) A resident of Balarampur while going to Narayantala was waylaid by a robber on the field in Biswanathpur.

NAVA YUG,  
Feb. 23rd 1901.

6. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 23rd February says that on the night of the 16th February last, a prostitute was dragged by a constable from the threshold of her house in Manicktala Street, and forcibly carried to the Jorasanko police-station on a false charge of intoxication. The constable beat her and greatly outraged her modesty. To prove her drunk he procured a glass of wine from a liquor shop and tried to pour the wine into her mouth, but did not succeed. On being asked by Babu Bijayendranath Mitra, Inspector, of the Jorasanko police-station, she said that the constable did all this, because she refused to pay him illegal gratification. The Inspector let off the woman and charged the constable with bribery, assault and unlawful confinement. On the case being put up before Mr. James, he suspended the constable. Nothing further has been heard in the matter. There should be a due trial of each of the alleged offences.

BANKURA  
DARPAH,  
Feb. 23rd, 1901.

7. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd February says that, since the Police Sub-Inspector's return from his three days' enquiry into the dacoity committed in the house of one Ananta Poddar, of village Narhara, in the Bankura district, nothing further has been heard. The rumour goes that the case has been compromised between the parties.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

FARIDPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Feb. 12th, 1901.

8. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 12th February says that, on account of various heavy duties, the Deputy Magistrate, Maulvi Skandabali cannot remain in Court for more than one hour or one hour and-a-half. He has to do treasury work even up to 3 P.M. This involves litigants in great trouble, waste of time, and ruinous expenditure of money. After Babu Ganga Narayan Ray's transfer no one took his place for two months; though all the while the Census and the Kotalipara partition work went on apace. Government certainly gains in such cases, but unfortunate litigants lose heavily.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Feb. 20th, 1901.

9. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th February says that, in the time of Sir Comer Petheram, the appointment and promotion of clerks in the Calcutta High Court was entirely in the hands of the Registrars and their deputies and assistants, because it was Sir Comer's practice not to question or look into any arrangement made by the chief ministerial officers. Sir Francis Maclean, however, did not at first follow this practice. He carefully looked into any promotion or appointment that was placed before him for sanction, and made such alterations as he thought necessary. During the first days of the present Chief Justice all favouritism was, therefore, kept in check. But, latterly, Sir Francis has ceased to take his old interest in the clerical arrangements, and favouritism is once more rampant. The appointment of Babu Khelat Chandra De, a temporary copyist on the Appellate Side, to a post of Rs. 50 rising to Rs. 70, in supersession of the claims of permanent incumbents who have been serving long in lower posts, proves this. Khelat Chandra's father is the Record-keeper in the English Department.



10. The same paper has heard complaints to the effect that the Judges of the Calcutta Small Cause Court are extremely anxious to enjoy leisure and do not like to sit in Court long or to patiently listen to the examination of witnesses. The Judges should remember that the Bench is not a couch of luxury, and that as judicial officers stern duty is their portion, and that they must not spend their time idly or in an undue enjoyment of leisure. The High Court should enquire into the complaint.

The Judges of the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.  
Feb. 20th, 1901.

11. Referring to the capital sentence passed on sixteen men in a murder case in the North-Western Provinces, which has been confirmed by the Allahabad High Court, the same paper writes as follows :—

The sentence in the murder case in the North-Western Provinces.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

The decision of the Allahabad High Court has not surprised us, because it is not the first time that it has confirmed such a sentence. But it is a decision which will pain everybody. Even the *Pioneer* newspaper, the official organ, has not been able to publish the news unmoved. It writes :—

“Execution on this scale is a revolting necessity . . . . . At the same time no one can help feeling that there is a vast gulf in moral guilt between these Ahirs (the culprits) and the wretch, for instance, who murders a child for its ornaments, and if the dispensing power should decide that banishment to the Andamans will meet the case, few will be inclined to say that the gallows has been cheated.”

We, however, fail to see the ‘necessity’ which the *Pioneer* sees. Capital sentence has been abolished in many civilised countries and is seldom inflicted even in Englishmen’s own country. Has its abolition brought those countries to rack and ruin?

The culprits committed the offence under serious provocation. Under the social customs of their own country, it may be possible for Englishmen to make light of women’s unchastity. But it is not so in India. It is not at all strange that the adultery of his wife with a Musalman set the blood of the Ahir husband and of his relatives boiling and led them to murder the woman and her paramour.

Then, is capital sentence passed in every case of murder which occurs in India? How many of the Europeans and Eurasians who kill natives are sentenced to death? Do they not commit offences which ought to be punished capitally? They do; but they are let off scot-free or with only very light punishments. The cases of such Europeans and Eurasians are living instances of the fact that in India murder is not always punished with death. And we contend that it is not right or just to inflict capital punishment in every case of murder.

Edward VII is the new Emperor of India. The simultaneous execution of so many persons in India for one and the same offence at the very commencement of his rule will be regarded by many as a matter of inauspicious augury. It is a long-standing custom for a new sovereign to make gifts and perform other beneficent deeds at the time of his accession. The new Emperor will acquire imperishable fame and will be blessed by the millions of his Indian subjects if, following this custom, His Majesty grants these poor wretches their lives. The Viceroy should not miss this opportunity of celebrating the accession of the new Emperor by showing mercy to these poor men.

12. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st February thanks Mr. Pennell for his love of justice and fixedness of purpose in bringing the murderers to punishment and disclosing the secrets of police oppression in the Noakhali case.

Mr. Pennell in the Noakhali case.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 21st, 1901.

13. The *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 22nd February is glad that Government will not interfere in the Noakhali case to arrest the development it may take in the natural course of justice. Such respect for justice is expected of a high-minded man like Sir John Woodburn.

Government in the Noakhali case.

PRATIHAR,  
Feb. 22nd, 1901.

14. Referring to the circumstances under which the High Court of Calcutta has ordered the release of Mr. Reily, on bail, the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February says that the fact of Mr. Reily being a white man and also a District Superintendent of Police explains the little departure from the ordinary procedure made in this case in communicating

The High Court in the Noakhali case.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,  
Feb. 22nd, 1901.



the order to the Sessions Judge. Would that the High Court made such a concession to social status in the case of every man in the country!

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 22nd, 1901.

15. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February writes:—

The Noakhali murder case.

Mr. Pennell's judgment in the Noakhali murder case is out at last. This Noakhali affair is an instance of the extremely evil result that may follow from the unholy union of the executive and judicial functions. The present case brings into prominent relief the police misdoings, the official interference in the administration of justice and the other causes which now make it difficult for Indians to obtain justice. Cases like this are common in this country, but seldom are matters carried so far as in the present case. Mr. Pennell has included in the file of the case even the threatening telegram which the Chief Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor sent to him. No body will be able to evade responsibility this time. It will be clearly seen from this case how the higher officials of Government support the police. But for the presence of a bold Judge like Mr. Pennell the world would have never known how even Mr. Bourdillon tramples upon justice to screen an oppressive officer. Cases like this are frequent, and ninety-nine Judges in a hundred feel no scruple in trampling upon justice under recommendation. But of how many of such cases can we obtain any knowledge or evidence? We, therefore, think that this unhappy case of murder must have happened for the public good.

HITAVADI.

16. The same paper considers it highly objectionable that Mr. Gabriel,

Mr. Gabriel, Subdivisional officer of Beguserai.

Subdivisional officer of Beguserai, in the Monghyr district, should be on terms of familiarity with the indigo planters within his jurisdiction, and should allow them to write him letters in connection with the cases which are tried by him. In the case in which Mr. Rowlin, Assistant Manager of the Begumserai factory, charged some villagers with assault, Mr. Marsham, Manager of the factory, wrote Mr. Gabriel three letters, and seems also to have had a private interview with him.

Mr. Gabriel treated the pleader and even the counsel for the defence in the above case rudely and with haughtiness.

As Treasury Officer, Mr. Gabriel never pays the Civil Court cheques on the day on which they are presented.

Though there is no plague in Beguserai, Mr. Gabriel has issued an order requiring every case of sickness to be reported to the police. This has frightened the residents, and many have left the station.

A man named Gauri Prasad, against whose character unfavourable remarks were several times made by the District Judge of Bhagalpur in his judgments, has become Mr. Gabriel's special favourite. He has been appointed Assistant Superintendent of the Census Operations and Secretary of the Victoria Memorial Committee at Beguserai.

17. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February has the following:—

Mr. Pennell.

It will be remembered that Mr. Pennell incurred the displeasure of the authorities in connection with the Chapra case, in which in his attempt to do justice he had to censure the conduct of certain European officers implicated therein. It is the impression of the public that his fearless conduct in that case led to his transfer to an unhealthy district like Noakhali, where he is still stationed. The explanation offered by the Government about his transfer has not removed that impression.

Mr. Pennell's evil star does not appear to have yet left him, and is about to get him into fresh trouble. The Noakhali affair is rumoured to be far more serious than the Chapra affair. We are sorry to hear of his trouble, because a courageous, fearless, independent and upright Judge like him is very rare in this country. We did not refer to the present case before, because we had heard that it was the agitation in the native press which got Mr. Pennell into trouble in the Chapra case.

SAMAY,  
Feb. 22nd, 1901.

18. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 26th February writes as follows:—

The Noakhali case.

After the Chapra case it was thought that the Secretary in the Judicial Department of the Bengal Secretariat would never again wrongly interfere with the course of justice; but the present Noakhali case shows what a mistake it was to have so thought. This case is more serious than the Chapra case. The District Superintendent of

BANGABHUMI,  
Feb. 26th, 1901.



Police, Noakhali, has been committed to *hajal* for perjury and forgery, and the request of the local Magistrate and his wife to enlarge him on bail was sternly refused. All this has made us dumb. For a long time we have been asking for a separation of the judicial from the executive functions, but Government has always turned a deaf ear to our prayers. What answer has the Government to give in regard to the present scandal? Any answer, good or bad, may satisfy us, but the newspapers will carry the facts of the case to foreign countries. What explanation will Englishmen give them? Everything is possible in India.

Justices Amir Ali and Pratt have ordered the release of Mr. Reily on bail. This order was telegraphed to Noakhali contrary to the ordinary procedure. From this we can guess what the final result of the case will be.

The fiends' dance has commenced all over this world. This [Noakhali matter] is more dreadful than the scenes that are being enacted in China and the Transvaal. The whole world is filled with the one sound of wailing by the poor and the oppressed. In this we do not find the officials so much at fault as ourselves. If the daroga Osman Ali, who is one of *us*, if the Osman Ali of *our* community had not been a perverse or corrupt man, would Mr. Reily have found it at all in his power to overstep his limits, or Mr. Secretary Bourdillon dared to write such a letter? We do not blame *others*; if a traitor among ourselves did not give out our secret, who would know how to injure us?

This is a very bad time for Mr. Pennell. Who can say what fate awaits him? There is not in Bengal a worse zilla than Noakhali. So where will Government send him this time? We heartily pray to God that he may soon adorn the bench of the High Court.

19. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 27th February contains the following remarks on Mr. Pennell's judgment:—

Mr. Pennell's judgment.

The reasons why Mr. Pennell's judgment has become so long are, first, because he has reviewed the evidence with attention to every minute detail, and, secondly, because he has introduced in the judgment many unnecessary and irrelevant topics. There is no gainsaying much that he has said, but it is doubtful whether it ought to have found a place in a judgment. His remarks about Lord Curzon and the Resolution of the Government of India in the Chapra case may be just, but were certainly uncalled for. Formerly, the executive authorities used to comment on the work done by the Judges in their administration reports. But the practice has been discontinued by order of Government. So, it is also extremely wrong of a Judge to enter into a controversy with the Government in any judgment he writes. The language, moreover, which Mr. Pennell has used in speaking of the Viceroy is characterized by want of moderation and a disrespectful spirit. It was thought that Mr. Pennell would write his judgment with caution; but, instead of doing that, he has attacked everybody on every side like a mad man.

But, in spite of all his faults, the principal point for consideration in regard to Mr. Pennell is, how was he treated by the executive? Probably, neither the Government of India nor the Government of Bengal nor the High Court will side with him. But what does that matter to the public? It is rumoured that the Government of Bengal browbeat Mr. Pennell, and that excited him all the more. Before delivering his judgment, Mr. Pennell ordered Mr. Reily to be present in his Court every day till the conclusion of the case. The order was communicated to the Government by the District Magistrate, and the Chief Secretary in reply asked Mr. Pennell to rescind it. It is a question if any one, except a higher judicial authority, has the power to tell a Judge to rescind an order made by him, and Mr. Pennell told the Chief Secretary that the Government had no power to make the order which it had sent and wanted to know under what section of what law it had been made. The Chief Secretary rejoined that Government had the power to transfer or dismiss him. The telegrams which were sent to Government by Mr. Pennell after this were not answered. All this correspondence has been placed by Mr. Pennell on the record of the case.

It is certainly a very serious thing for Government to privately ask a Judge to rescind a judicial order. Compared with the enormity of such an order Mr. Pennell's faults and indiscretions are as nothing.

PRABHAT,  
Feb. 27th, 1901.



BASUMATI,  
Feb. 28th, 1901.

20. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 28th February writes as follows:—

The Noakhali case. Mr. Pennell's judgment in the Noakhali case has sent a thrill through Bengal and filled every Bengali heart with wonder and admiration. It is a unique and unusual occurrence in British India for a European Civilian Judge to send a European District Superintendent of Police to *hajat* on a charge of perjury and forgery—an occurrence stranger than the strangest recorded in fiction. Seventy millions of Bengalis are impatient to see how the case ends, how the District Superintendent of Police defends himself, and what becomes of him, if he is found guilty. Nothing so sensational has happened in this country after the execution of Nanda Kumar under the sentence passed against him by Sir Elijah Impey.

Mr. Pennell's courage is inconceivable to the Bengali. Courage like his is impossible in one who can defend a lie. He is also known as a good judicial officer, and we shall be glad to see his reputation remain unimpaired in the present case. Had he been daunted by the fear of losing service, he could not have done what he considered it to be his duty to do in this case.

Mr. Pennell refused bail to Mr. Reily saying that 'he thought it unsafe to release Mr. Reily on bail, whether suspended or not, so long as Mr. Cargill remained in charge of the district.' Did Mr. Justice Ameer Ali make any attempt to meet this argument before he ordered Mr. Reily's release on bail? No reason was also assigned by the High Court for taking the extraordinary course which they recommended in this case of wiring their order to Noakhali. But why such hurry? Was it because Mr. Reily is a European and the head of the district police, and because there is not available in the Noakhali Jail such luxuries as a European requires? Are not the high and the low equal in the eye of the law? However great the people's respect for the High Court, it is diminished instead of increasing when they see the Judges committing such indiscretion. Would Mr. Ameer Ali have communicated his order by wire if the applicant for bail had been an ordinary man? That country must be very unfortunate whose highest court of justice looks to the position of an accused person in passing orders in regard to him.

21. The same paper continues:—

BASUMATI.

Mr. Pennell's judgment.

We have failed to understand with what object Mr. Pennell has sharply criticised the policy of the Government. Does he think that that is the best way of opening the eyes of the executive and the judiciary in this country? We do not believe that he will be able to benefit the country by placing his liberal and impartial views of the judicial administration before whomsoever he believes to have departed from the path of truth and justice. No change in the methods of judicial and executive administration can be expected, and the only result of his judgment will probably be that we shall be deprived of a fearless and upright Judge. His judgment may also shake our confidence in British justice. The judgment may do us good if it can remove the faults which have crept into the administration. If it cannot remove those faults, it will do more harm than good. Mr. Pennell would have done well if he had privately communicated to the authorities his views about what he believes to be the defects and vices of the executive administration in connection with the judicial instead of making such a public exposure thereof.

(d)—Education.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 22nd, 1901.

22. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February says that it is clear

Selection of Fellows for the Calcutta University.

from the Viceroy's Convocation speech that when the University reform contemplated by His Excellency is effected, the Fellows who reside in Calcutta will have everything their own way. The Calcutta University has been established for the purpose of spreading education not only among the residents of Calcutta, but among all the inhabitants of the Lower Provinces, and in Assam, and even in such far off places as Burma, Ceylon, the Central Provinces and Indore. To place the control of the University in the hands of only the Calcutta Fellows would, therefore, be one-sided policy. Instead of doing this, learned men in the mufassal should rather be appointed Fellows



in larger numbers than at present, and their opinions should be taken on every question before the Senate.

23. The same paper refers to the training through the senses and object lessons as well as the instruction in drawing proposed to be given to infants in the new scheme of vernacular education, and remarks as follows:—

The proposed scheme of vernacular education.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 22nd, 1901.

All this is nice to talk of and nice to hear, but whether it will do any real good remains to be seen. Those who now plume themselves upon their attainments were never educated according to this method, and they alone can say whether they have had to experience any disadvantage or inconvenience from this circumstance. And if Babu Radhikaprasanna Mukharji and the other members of the Committee have really experienced any difficulty in the acquisition of knowledge from not having been trained according to this method, they alone will be able to make a comparison of the difficulty experienced by them with that which will be produced by the introduction of the new method. The more we consider the new scheme the more we feel averse to the proposed change. The story of Sandford and Merton was not written for Bengalis. It is not likely that things like those related in that story should happen in the life of a Bengali. If education is imparted according to the proposed method, there will be sorely felt, at every step, the want of those manners and customs, those ways of living and social habits, with which alone an educational method like this can be truly profitable.

We can not therefore help objecting to the proposed educational system. However laudable the object of the authorities may be in proposing it, we expect nothing but harm from its operation. In our opinion, it would be a destruction and not a reform of education. It will result in a mountain in labour bringing forth a mouse—in a great waste of time, money and labour. In the course of our criticism of the scheme we shall try to gradually explain the reasons that have led us to arrive at this conviction, and we shall be satisfied if the authorities of the Education Department calmly consider whether this conviction of ours is based on solid grounds or on mere prejudices.

24. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd February contains the following:—

Withdrawal of aid from a village school in the Burdwan district.

The villagers of Susuni in the Burdwan district complain of the sudden withdrawal of the Board's aid to the middle vernacular school in their village. The number of successful candidates from the school was in some year three, in some four and sometimes even five. Sometimes the school stood highest in the examinations. The school had an aid of Rs. 25 per month, and the withdrawal of this sum has resulted in the closing of it for good. Another school with the same aid has been started in Adra, the native village of Babu Banwarilal Hati, the Vice-Chairman of the Board. The Vice-Chairman is asked what was the secret cause of the withdrawal of the Board's grant to the Susuni school. Where will the boys of Susuni read now? The leading members of the District Board and Babu Banwarilal in particular are requested to listen to the cries of the villagers.

BANGAVASI,  
Feb. 23rd, 1901.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

25. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 12th February says that the village Krokadi, in the Goalundo subdivision, is gradually becoming very unhealthy on account of the bad water of its tanks in the dry season.

Want of good water in a village in the Goalundo subdivision.

FARIDPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Feb. 12th, 1901.

Babu Radhika Mohan Lahiri tried to have the tank in front of his house re-excavated, but was prevented from doing so on account of some coparcenary dispute, which the local Deputy Magistrate, Maulvi Faizaddin, went to enquire into. On the transfer of this Deputy Magistrate from the place, Radhika Babu again applied to the District Board and obtained an order requiring the District Engineer to enquire. But one year has passed away, and the District Engineer has not found time for this work. The Assistant Magistrate of Goalundo is requested to look to the matter.



BIKASH,  
Feb. 19th, 1901.

26. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 19th February says that, some time ago, the local municipality appointed first a midwife and then a lady doctor in connection with the Charitable Hospital, with the main object of benefiting the public. The lady doctor now demands such a high fee from private persons that the poor, in general, cannot get the benefit of her skill. Her charge is higher even than those of first rate midwives in Calcutta. A reasonable rate, according to distances travelled, should be fixed once for all.

BASUMATI,  
Feb. 21st, 1901.

27. Referring to the recent municipal oppression in a house in Balaram De's Street, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 21st February writes as follows:—

The man, who was oppressed, lives on a monthly salary of Rs. 15. His liability amounts to more than Rs. 150. Under such circumstances it would not be unreasonable to realize the money in instalments. We hope that Mr. Greer will not allow the poor man's subsistence to be encroached upon and the worship of his gods to be stopped. One thing we cannot understand. Why did the municipality take no action in this matter before this man's liability became so heavy? Why, again, was so poor a man so heavily taxed? The entry into the god's room with boots on and the carrying off of the utensils used in his worship remind us of the oppression committed by Nawabs of old. Ploughs and bullocks for agriculture cannot be seized by the zamindar in execution of his decree for arrears of rent, but we see that the utensils used in divine worship, the only means of livelihood open to the priest, cannot escape from the clutches of the municipality. Many illegal acts are perpetrated in the name of the law, and it is necessary that such acts should be stopped, for the law intends not to oppress. Babus Surendra Nath Banerji, Bhupendra Nath Basu and many other gentlemen saw Mr. Greer about this matter and were highly satisfied with the reception he gave them. We remain in anxious expectation of the result.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 22nd, 1901.

28. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February says:—  
In consequence of one of the provisions of the new Municipal Act of Calcutta, it has become impossible for the rate-payers to dwell in old houses inherited from a long line of ancestors. All such houses are being condemned by the Municipal authorities as unfit for human habitation and pulled down under Magisterial orders.

In consequence of another provision of the same law, the sanctity of the *zanana* in native households is being violated by municipal employes. A complaint was preferred before a Magistrate by the aggrieved rate-payer in a case of such violation, but the Magistrate acquitted the accused Municipal employes, saying that the law and not the accused was to blame for the wrong complained of. But does not the violation by strangers of the privacy of the *zanana* strike a blow at a custom held dearer than life by both Hindus and Musalmans? If, in the case referred to above, the house had belonged to a fiery Musalman instead of a meek Hindu, it is easy to imagine what serious consequences would have followed from the violation of the *zanana*.

In another instance, some municipal employes entered with their shoes on into the room in a Hindu's house in which the family god is kept. Such acts as this ought to be at once stopped. The rate-payers should not remain idle and indifferent. What has happened to-day in the house of one rate-payer, may happen to-morrow in the house of another. Both Hindus and Musalmans should take steps to prevent a violation of the privacy of the *zanana* by municipal officers. Anything done to destroy woman's *ijbat*, to violate the sanctity of the *zanana* and of the place in which the Hindu god is kept, is unbearable to all. If such oppression is not stopped in the very commencement, it will in time assume such proportions as will make it impossible for Hindus and Musalmans to live in Calcutta. Let us all, therefore, make a united representation to the Government. The English are model rulers. They will never knowingly do that which is calculated to wound the feelings of their subjects and destroy their honour and respectability.



## (f)—Questions affecting the land.

29. Referring to the recent visit of the Magistrate to Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st February asks for a proper inquiry as to whether the remissions of revenue made to several of the local khas mahals by the Tahsildar were rightly made or not. Are these mahals fit to receive exemption? Do the talukdars derive no income from these mahals? Do they not attach the properties of their raiyats for arrears of rent?

Remission of revenue in some Chittagong khas mahals.

JYOTI,  
Feb. 21st, 1901.

## (g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

30. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 20th February complains of great mismanagement in the stations on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Passengers on arriving at a station cannot alight, because no one unlocks the door. As one instance, the Contai station may be mentioned. Water is seldom had in any station, and when it is had, it is too small in quantity.

Most of the third and intermediate class carriages are not lighted at night, and repeated requests of the passengers to light them are disregarded. Sometimes a railway officer takes a passenger's ticket, and then detains him in the station on the charge of having travelled without a ticket, and lets him off only on receiving an illegal gratification. A certain gentleman's servant was treated in this way. The offender's name will be disclosed if necessary.

31. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February says that though the East Indian Railway Company are willing to grant fifteen days' leave of absence in a year to every one of its servants, in practice the authorities of the railway scarcely grant any leave to the employes. Lately, an employe at the Rampur Hat station was asked by his relatives to come home in order to attend the funeral ceremony of his father, and he went home with the permission of the Station Master. The District Traffic Superintendent of Sahibganj 'suspended the impertinent man' for this fault. Have the railway employes sold themselves life and soul to their employers that they should not get leave even to attend the funeral ceremonies of their fathers? Why should the employes suffer because the Company do not employ an adequate number of servants? It often happens that, in consequence of the paucity of men, employes have to work additional hours in the place of men who are absent. This sort of arrangement is fraught with danger to the railway travelling public.

A railway matter.

32. Another correspondent of the same paper complains that at the Dinajpur station on the Assam-Bihar Railway through tickets are scarcely available, and tickets for each train are commenced to be sold so late that passengers generally miss the trains they intend to catch, and even if they succeed in catching the trains, it becomes impossible for them to book their luggage.

A railway complaint.

HITAVADI.

## (h)—General.

33. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th February says that it is certain that the creation of the new frontier office has delighted the officials. But the public are not delighted, because it means increased public expenditure. If the present Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab is unable to administer the frontiers satisfactorily, the Government ought to put an abler man in his place instead of creating an additional charge on the Indian exchequer.

The new frontier office.

34. The same paper says that the arbitrary and high-handed manner in which census supervisors and enumerators have been selected in the mufassal is not creditable to the Government. Incapable persons have, in many cases, been appointed, and those who objected to their appointment have been judicially punished. Such things are possible only in this country. In many cases illiterate enumerators and supervisors have been appointed by the police.

Selection of census enumerators &c., in the mufassal.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Feb. 20th, 1901.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.



And this is not only subjecting the men thus appointed to inconvenience, but is prejudicing work. To crown all, these illiterate enumerators and supervisors have, in many instances, been criminally prosecuted for neglect of duty.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 21st, 1901.

35. A Muhammadan correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st February says that the term *atrap* which is being used in the present census papers is a term of abuse. Its meaning in Arabic is *mean* or *vulgar*. It does not mean a sect. It is used comprehensively to mean all low people. The Deputy Magistrate of Satkhira has ordered all Muhammadans who live by cultivation to be styled *atrap*. The Hon'ble Mr. Risley is requested to replace this word by a more suitable one.

SANJIVANI

36. The same paper says that for the present census work men have been chosen enumerators and supervisors without their knowledge, and those who are declining to serve as such are being harassed by criminal prosecutions. Former Governments did this work with paid men, but the present Government is trying to have it done *gratis*. An accurate enumeration cannot be expected under such conditions, and there are indications everywhere that the work will be badly done.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

DACCA  
PRAKASH,  
Feb. 24th, 1901.

37. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 24th February writes as follows:—  
We are reassured to learn from a letter written by a member of the Legislative Council that he approves of the amendments proposed by us in the Bengal Tenancy Act, and that he proposes to raise the question in the Council. But he will wait and see what sort of a memorial is presented by the British Indian Association in Calcutta before he commences operations. But we have already shown why a memorial presented by that Association cannot in the nature of things contain a description of the grievances that are felt in a special measure by mufassal zamindars. The big zamindars who experience no difficulty in realising and enhancing rent and whose tenants fear them too much to think of offering any opposition to their demands, will not be able to realize the defects of the law in these respects. They may pray for a reduction of court-fees from two annas to one anna-and-a-half, but they can have no idea of the many indispensable expenses incidental to a rent-suit which press so heavily upon the poorer mufassal zamindars and prevent them from recovering their dues by recourse to law. It will not therefore do to sit idle in the expectation that the British Indian Association would do all that needs to be done. But even the merest rubbish proposed by that Association may lead Government to propose an amendment of the Act, and in that case amendments proposed in the Act by members of the Council will prove more effectual than they would otherwise be. If the Hon'ble member is in expectation of any such issue, we approve of his policy. But he should make sure whether the Association really means to draw the attention of the Legislature to the matter.

Everybody but a lawyer must wish suits to be decided at a small cost and in a short time. At present, after a man has spent much money in conducting a rent-suit, he has also to spend much time and money in executing the decree. We therefore propose that a notice of sale should be issued in the course of a rent-suit. If orders are passed for a sale on the date the decree is given on the same principle on which the amount admitted to be due is required to be deposited in Court by section 150 of the Act, unnecessary delay and expense may be prevented. It would not be improper to order an instantaneous sale for a claim which is adjudged by the Court as just. The object of inserting section 150 in the Act is that landlords may recover their dues without delay. But the power of adjudging the claim having been left by the law to the tenant, he can admit only one pice as due where the amount of the real claim is one hundred rupees. The object of the law can by no means be fulfilled in this way. It is very surprising that the law provides no severe penalty for deception practised on the law Courts and the legislature in this manner. Be that as it may, we propose that, instead of keeping that ineffectual provision, it should be provided that on the day on which a Court adjudges a claim, it should pass orders for a sale of the defaulter's holding, in the



presence of the plaintiff, the defendant and the witnesses. If the sale cannot take place that day, a date should be fixed for it, which should not be later than one month from the date of the decree, and orders should be passed for notifying the date to the plaintiff's and defendant's pleaders. If the tenant does not pay off the debt adjudged by the Court even on that date, his holding should be sold that day. But even after such a sale takes place, the tenant will have the right to have the sale set aside by depositing the landlord's dues. No party is therefore likely to suffer any harm by this curtailment of time and expense. If any person in whose favour any encumbrance is created suffers any loss from a proclamation of sale not having been made, he will be able to have the sale set aside by paying off the debts within a month of the auction-purchaser's taking possession.

38. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 27th February is glad that Government has filled up the vacancy caused in the Bengal Council by the resignation of Rai Durga Gati Banerji Bahadur by appointing to it Babu Tarini Kumar Ghosh, Inspector-General of Registration. Tarini Babu is an educated and independent man, and the Lieutenant-Governor has given proof of discrimination by appointing him to a seat in the Council.

PRABHAT,  
Feb. 27th, 1901.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

39. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st February has learnt from the *Tribune* that a Native Prince of the Punjab has been fined Rs. 1,000 by a local Deputy Commissioner for not coming out to meet him on his visit to the prince's territory. This account has been published in the Administration Report of the Punjab Government. If this be true, the condition of a Native Prince must be worse than that of an ordinary subject. Does Lord Curzon know of the sentence passed by the Deputy Commissioner? The Native Princes cannot leave their territories without the Viceroy's permission. Are they also to be taken to task for not visiting white officials?

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 21st, 1901.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

40. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th February has the following:—  
The Anglo-Indian papers in the memorial question.  
To perpetuate the memory of the late Queen-Empress it is proposed to erect a large Art Institute in Calcutta under the name of the Victoria Hall. The Viceroy himself advocates its erection, and more than 35 lakhs of rupees has been subscribed for it in a short time. But it is a matter of regret that powerful Anglo-Indian journals like the *Pioneer* and the *Civil and Military Gazette* should not hesitate to oppose the establishment of such a noble institution. But there is nothing to wonder at in this. Lord Curzon is a man of an independent spirit. He acts according to the dictates of his conscience without deferring to the views of the officials. That is why he has not succeeded in becoming popular in Anglo-Indian official circles. The organs of the Anglo-Indian community are not likely to be favourably disposed towards any measure which is advocated by him. The *Pioneer* has, besides, private reasons to be dissatisfied with Lord Curzon. His Lordship's attitude towards those who, though fostered by the special favour of Government, are opposing him in this noble endeavour should be one of proud contempt.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Feb. 19th 1901.

41. The *Medini Bandhab* [Midnapore] of the 20th February contains a poem lamenting the death of the Queen-Empress.

MEDINI BANDHAB,  
Feb. 20th, 1901.

42. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st February says that public morality in Bagerhat is vitiated in consequence of the *mela* which is held there every year. The main features of the *mela* are the presence of prostitutes and gambling. Little boys and young men are ruined here. Unlicensed gambling goes on under the nose of the police. Obscene verses are circulated, and all sorts of unwholesome food are sold. The Deputy Magistrate is requested to check these bad practices with a firm hand. He should know that some of his subordinates commit the very worst vices in a local *cutcherry* at night.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 21st, 1901.



PRATIKAR,  
Feb. 22nd, 1901.

43. The *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 22nd February expresses satisfaction at Lady Curzon's proposed fund, and says that there is really a serious want of good midwives in the villages.

PRATIVASI  
Feb. 75th, 1901.

44. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 25th February contains the following:—

The memorial question.

It is clear that the idea of the Victoria Hall has not been favourably received by the thoughtful men of the country. Although every one in India will have to subscribe to the Viceroy's fund, yet there are indications everywhere that separate memorials will be established.

Had Lord Curzon advanced some proposal meaning direct public good, all India, moved by fervent loyalty, would have welcomed it with one accord. What a grand commemoration carrying every heart with it could be effected in this way! At an unlucky moment did Lord Curzon form his singular idea!

Lord Curzon settled the matter after consulting with some respectable residents of Calcutta. Perhaps most of these were Europeans. Or if any of them were Indians, were they men who could truly represent the Indian community? Will they think over the matter independently? Or were their opinions formed to suit the fancies of officials? Did Lord Curzon take the opinions of those who had convened the grand meeting for universal mourning on the maidan, of those who showed their goodness by feeding the poor in Calcutta? Is the entire community to be guided by the luxurious tastes of a few wealthy men? Are the opinions of the journals and of the public so worthless?

PRABHAT,  
Feb. 1/4th, 1901.

45. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 27th February writes as follows on the memorial question:—

The memorial question.

In India a crore of rupees has already been collected for a Victoria memorial. But in England, which ought to be the first country where a memorial to its late Queen should be erected, no subscriptions have been yet collected, nor has it yet been determined what form a memorial should take. Nor have any subscriptions been collected or any commemoration proposal made in Australia, Canada, or any other colony.

Let us take it that India is the country which has first proposed a memorial to Her late Majesty, because of the excess of her loyalty. But has her loyalty ever been rewarded by her rulers with any marks of favour? Has she not, on the contrary, been ever and anon charged with sedition? The truth is that so large a sum has been collected in this country only because it is the Viceroy himself who has taken the initiative in this matter. There is as yet no unanimity of opinion as to the form the memorial should take, but that does not prevent subscriptions from pouring in. India is going to be ruined by famine, but a crore of rupees was never subscribed by her people for famine relief. It may be said that famine is a yearly occurrence in India, but the death of its sovereign does not occur every year. Admitting this, why should India, which is a poor country in comparison with England, pay more for a memorial than England does? If England collects a few lakhs, India should not collect more than a few thousands.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

ALL URIYA PAPERS  
for the week.

46. The native papers of Orissa are still in mourning. Their columns are mainly devoted to an account of Her late Majesty's life and to a description of the measures adopted in different parts of the country to commemorate her sacred memory. They further state that a large sum of money was spent by many rich men in different parts of India in feeding the poor and in other charities as if she were their deceased mother. They are of opinion that no other sovereign in the history of the world elicited after death such spontaneous outburst of sorrow and filial love as Her late Imperial Majesty Queen Victoria.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Feb. 16th, 1901.

47. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 16th February is glad to learn that His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor, has appointed his younger brother, the Duke of Connaught, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India, and states that the Duke, while in charge of the Bombay Command,



created a very good impression by his laudable proposal to open a military college for the benefit of the Indians. The writer hopes that the Duke will, at any rate, command the loyalty of the Indians, a feeling that wants a visible person for its stability and growth, and the Duke, as representing his Royal brother, will be a fit object for the satisfaction of this feeling.

48. The same paper states that Mr. Luson, the Collector of Puri, has dealt leniently with the zamindars of that district by receiving arrear-revenue from them even after the date of the sale, and has thereby won golden opinions. It is said that during the course of his tour in the interior of that district, Mr. Luson came across a great deal of actual distress, which enabled him to realize the difficulties which the landlords experience in collecting rent and in meeting the Government demand on them.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Feb. 16th, 1901.

49. The same paper has found out the cause of the failure of the Ravenshaw College in passing candidates in the B. L. Examination of the Calcutta University. The candidates for that examination from that college in the past few years were not *bonâ fide* students, but men who had some other occupation to attend to. None but whole-time students can expect to pass a difficult examination like the B. L. Examination creditably. The writer hopes that the condition of the college will improve in this respect by and by.

UTKALDIPIKA.

50. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 13th February is opposed to the proposal of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta to introduce the *Bible* as a subject of study in Indian schools. The writer urges that the Hindu and Muhammadan pupils should be called upon to read the *Vedas* and the *Koran* respectively. It is surely a breach of the policy of toleration to force the *Bible* on the unwilling Hindu and Muhammadan children, who do not at all want it.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Feb. 13th, 1901.

51. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 14th February is of opinion that Sir John Woodburn has won golden opinions by promptly ordering the release of a gentleman, who was imprisoned in Monghyr for carrying his son, who was in that town and was attacked by plague, to his native village for treatment. The writer adds that but for the interference of His Honour a poor and innocent father would have remained in jail for three months, and thereby discontent would have spread in all ranks of the Indian society.

SAMVADVAHIKA,  
Feb. 14th, 1901.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 2nd March, 1901.



proposed to erect a monument  
to the memory of the  
Rev. John Smith, who died  
in 1780, and was buried in  
the churchyard of St. Andrew's  
Church, in the parish of St. Andrew,  
in the County of Middlesex.

The monument is to be  
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